

Application Serial No. 09/654,276
Amendment dated April 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended abstract:

The invention is directed to tissue-engineered biografts, methods for preparing the biografts of the invention, and A method-methods for repairing a damaged myocardium in a mammal, comprising: The methods of the invention can include a)——providing a three-dimensional porous polysaccharide matrix; b)——introducing mammalian cells into said matrix; e)——growing said cells in said matrix *in vitro*, until a tissue-engineered biograft is formed, comprising a contracting tissue; and d)——transplanting the tissue-engineered biograft onto the myocardial tissue or myocardial scar tissue of said mammal. The tissue-engineered biograft of the invention can form a contracting tissue. The methods of the invention can optionally include previously removing scar tissue or dead tissue from the site of implantation prior to transplanting the biograft.